



# OER Growers Autumn Season 2012

## Wiki Intro



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# WHAT IS WIKI

**wiki** is a *generic* term which is used to describe a certain kind of collaborative website that can be edited by any user and/or visitor.

# WHAT IS WIKIPEDIA

- ◉ **Wikimedia** is the collective name for a group of inter-related projects, including [Wikipedia](#), [Wiktionary](#), [Wikisource](#), [Wikibooks](#), and others, which aim to use the collaborative power of the Internet, and the *wiki* concept, to create and share free knowledge of all kinds.

# WHAT IS MEDIAWIKI

- **MediaWiki** is the particular wiki engine developed for and used by Wikipedia and the other Wikimedia projects. It is freely available for others to use (and improve), and there are many copies in use by all sorts of projects around the world.

# WIKI USES

Wiki can be used to provide many solutions for information collection and presentation, including:

- ◉ as a replacement (or augmentation) for a traditional web site
- ◉ to update content "in real time" without waiting for a webmaster
- ◉ as a document management tool
- ◉ to collaborate on projects, documents, and goals
- ◉ as a knowledge base or FAQ system
- ◉ to design and document software products
- ◉ as a company internal message board
- ◉ to develop and demonstrate new web-based applications
- ◉ Wiki can enhance the quality and quantity of available information by improving the ability of many people to collaborate on documenting and sharing what they know.

# ADVANTAGES

- ◉ anyone can edit
- ◉ easy to use and learn
- ◉ Wikis are instantaneous so there is no need to wait for a publisher to create a new edition or update information
- ◉ people located in different parts of the world can work on the same document
- ◉ the wiki software keeps track of every edit made and it's a simple process to revert back to a previous version of an article
- ◉ widens access to the power of web publishing to non-technical users
- ◉ the wiki has no predetermined structure - consequently it is a flexible tool which can be used for a wide range of applications
- ◉ there are a wide range of open source software wiki's to choose from so licensing costs shouldn't be a barrier to installing an institutional wiki

# DISADVANTAGES

- ◉ Advantages in one context, may be disadvantages in another.
- ◉ Anyone can edit so this may be too open for some applications, for example confidential documentation. However it is possible to regulate user access.
- ◉ Requires Internet connectivity to collaborate, but technologies to produce print versions of articles are improving
- ◉ The flexibility of a wiki's structure can mean that information becomes disorganised. As a wiki grows, the community plans and administers the structure collaboratively.



# LINKS

- ◉ MediaWiki Basic Principles
- ◉ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AN2q3mr9rH0>
- ◉ MediaWiki tutorial  
<http://archive.org/details/LearnProgramming.tv-MediaWiki>
- ◉ OER Growers wiki page  
<http://wiki.oergrowers.gr/>